

Marie Curie brought to life
in Bunker Auditorium

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Paul Meyer

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CSM student attends Obama inauguration

Kristin Chuchwa
Staff Writer

Many CSM students watched the Inauguration of President Obama last Tuesday. One of our own, Ashley Fish, attended the event in person. She agreed to an interview to share her first hand experiences and impressions of her visit to Washington DC.

[Oredigger] Did you go to Washington with a group, or on your own?

[Fish] I went there with the University Presidential Inaugural Conference. They are associated with the congressional youth leadership conference.

What is the Congressional Youth Leadership conference?

It's an organization associated with Congress that gathers together a whole bunch of scholars to learn, discuss and debate different topics that affect our world today.

How did you get involved with the Youth Leadership Con-

ference? Are there any special qualifications?

No, some of my [high school] teachers nominated me to go to the Global Youth Leadership Conference four years ago. This is a model United Nations conference. Students from all over the world get together and discuss and debate topics. I represented Egypt and fought for different legislations to pass. From then on I just continued to be involved.

What did you get to see and/or do while you were there?

This particular conference we were brought to the conference to hear Al Gore, Colin Powell, and various political panelists from CNN such as Paul Begala and Tucker Carlson from MSNBC. We also heard Mary Magdalene and James Carville speak. On Sunday we went to the presidential concert. We also went to see the inauguration on Tuesday, as well as some inaugural balls on Tuesday evening.

Out of all the events you at-

tended this past week, which one was the most memorable?

The Inauguration, there was nothing else like it!

Could you describe the inauguration?

I got up at 2:30 am and left for the event at about 3 am. The streets were full of thousands of people and there were snipers on the rooftops. Police and military [personnel] were on every corner. When we got to the National Mall it was dark, cold, and full of people waiting to watch President-Elect Obama get sworn in. There were thousands of people there, but everyone was really friendly. You became really close to the people around you, but what else were you supposed to do with twelve hours of your time waiting for the president elect to get sworn in? Once he was actually up there and sworn in, everyone was crying, cheering, and happy.

Did you get to meet any celebrities?



PHOTO COURTESY ASHLEY FISH

I got my picture with Luke Ruscert from CNN; I got to meet Paul Begala who is on the Situation Room on CNN. I got to meet with Tucker Carlson from MSNBC. I saw Denzel Washington, P-Diddy, Beyonce, Shakira and Stevie Wonder.

Would you repeat this experi-

ence if you had the chance?

Hell Yeah!

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

It was amazing and if you ever get the chance to go, take it! There's nothing else like it in the world!

MME Lecture

Erik Lord
Staff Writer

It sounded like magic when Doug Meegan, Ph.D., explained how he has been using the energy of acoustic waves to manipulate micro-scale airborne particles. Dr. Meegan visited the Department of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering on Thursday afternoon to discuss his research in acoustics at the Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA) facility in Littleton, Colorado.

Dr. Meegan came to Colorado in 2005 from the University of Texas, where he earned his doctorate in physics and spent eight years as a Research Scientist and Lecturer for the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He also founded the Department's Industrial Acoustics Group. Over the past four years at ARA, Dr. Meegan has orchestrated applied research in the areas of acoustics, ultrasonics, aerosol mechanics, optics, and signal processing.

He introduced the topic with a description of how acoustic manipulation works. Meegan explained that sound waves of certain frequencies interact with particulate matter, forcing the particles into velocity nodes. These applied sound fields have been applied at various frequencies, amplitudes, and residence times, dependent upon the desired effect.

While the overall scope of acoustic manipulation research has been extremely broad,

Meegan focused on three main areas: selectively separating particles, levitating and concentrating aerosols, and accelerating the rate of adsorption of vapor species by sorbent powders.

The first topic Meegan discussed was the purification of gas trains without the need for filters, aptly termed "filterless air purification." Using only sound waves, Meegan and his research team have successfully removed 99.9% of one-micron particulate from air in laboratory tests. "That is a world record for acoustic filterless purification," said Meegan. "We're very proud of that." He also added, "In a two-stage process, we could theoretically exceed [the performance of] HEPA filters."

SEE ACOUSTICS ON PAGE 3



ERIK LORD / OREDIGGER

Plus/minus, Gmail at ASCSM

Zach Boerner
Copy Editor

The Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines (ASCSM) had their first meeting of the new semester this last Thursday to discuss topics ranging from a new e-mail system to the plus/minus grading system, eliciting much discussion from the group present.

While the meeting was not well attended, the topics discussed have great impact on the student body. David Lee, from AC&N came to speak to ASCSM to "solicit opinions" and to "help me figure out where we want to go forward." He was referring to the many discussions circulating campus about whether or not the e-mail system should be switched to a Gmail-based system.

However, there is a contracting issue. Google has an indemnification clause in the contract to use Gmail and Colorado has a provision in its state constitution that prohibits the state or state institutions to enter into contracts with indemnification clauses.

One of the interesting facts brought up by Lee was that out of the forwards to external e-mails, forwards to Gmail number ten times as much as the next forward site. Since many people already use Gmail, the idea is to just use that system because then people wouldn't have to migrate their mail to a different service again.

Lee continued to ask what

students wanted from a mail system before concluding that AC&N would still like students to give their input for what they want in a mail system.

The meeting then continued with the announcement that ASCSM elections would be coming up in six weeks followed by a few announcements.

ASCSM has decided that it is no longer pushing for a complete removal of the plus/minus grading system and that since "Dr. McKinnon had agreed at the last Faculty Senate meeting to create a new committee composed of students and faculty members to discuss the plus/minus grading issue," ASCSM will push for a grandfather clause instead.

ASCSM's meeting continued with reports from each of the classes and committees before moving onto the only resolution presented at the meeting.

The resolution was a formal statement that ASCSM would like a voting seat on the Faculty Senate so as to have a better student representation for the faculty. A lively discussion began on the pros and cons of the resolution.

Anant Pradhan, ASCSM Vice President, said, "We are relatively graced that [the Faculty Senate] even considered us for the plus/minus grading system. They could pass it with 50 students shouting at the top of their lungs that they didn't want it, without our opinion at all."

Chuck Perko, ASCSM Parliamentarian, who could not attend, sent a letter that was read by Pradhan, stating that, "This resolution far exceeds the boundaries of what we as the student government can or should do."

The one pro for the resolution was that it would enable the student body to have a larger voice in the goings-on of campus. However, as was pointed out, the Faculty Senate discusses a great number of things that have nothing to do with the student body and for which students should not have a say.

The resolution was voted upon and was defeated 3-22.

Duffy concluded the meeting after a final announcement from Jessica Bowser, Mines Activity Council President, that MAC is holding elections.



BREE WALTMAN / OREDIGGER

Anant Pradhan objects to Resolution 2009.1.

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Scientific discoveries this week

Patrick Beseda, Staff Writer

Carpinteria, CA.: Satellite antennae developed by Northrop Grumman helped scientists at NASA discover and map the location of underground glaciers on Mars. The satellite probes the surface of Mars using radar waves at 15-25 MHz. The reflection of these waves is analyzed to characterize rocks, ice, and dust. The antennae are able to see through the surface layer of dust and rock that insulates and preserves the glaciers. One of the glaciers is three times the size of the city of Los Angeles and up to a half-mile thick. The presence of large amounts of ice at these latitudes could be used as a source of water to support future exploration of the Red Planet.

Pfingztal, Germany.: Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology have developed a material that could develop into a replacement for plastic. Labeled as a type of "liquid wood," Arborform is made using the byproducts of the papermaking process. Made from trees and other wood sources, it shares many characteristics with plastic. Plastic, being petroleum based, is not a renewable resource and as the price of oil rises, so does the price of plastic. Car parts and other durable items made of Arborform already exist and the material has been found to be safe for household use, in anything from appliances to food containers. Unlike plastics, however, it is biodegradable, comes from a renewable resource, and does not contain harmful carcinogens that may cause cancer.

College Park, MD.: A team of physicists have successfully teleported quantum information from one atom to another. Previously, physicists have used photons of light to transport pieces of quantum information called qubits. The high speed of light makes photons ideal for transportation, but atoms are both easier to hold on to and are easier to detect. This feat is still a rare and inefficient process. Researchers hope to make it much more repeatable and more energy efficient. The new quantum teleportation technique could develop into techniques used in quantum computing, quantum cryptography, and ultra-fast communications.

Sydney, Aust.: While exploring uncharted waters near the coast of Tasmania, scientists have discovered several new species of marine life. Among the species discovered, most notable were carnivorous sea-squirt and ocean-dwelling spiders. "It's basically an underwater Venus Fly Trap," said Haverford University student Adam Subhas about the sea-squirt. The team also studied the nearby coral reefs in fear of changes due to global climate change. They reported that the recent loss of coral in the areas is due to chemical imbalances that have been studied to be a result of changing ocean currents. Whether or not global warming is to be blamed has yet to be seen.

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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

The United States of America inaugurated its 44th and first African American President, Barack Obama. Over **two million people** crammed into the National Mall to watch the historic event.

Pet foods, Clif Bars, Keebler crackers, and other products containing **peanut butter** were pulled from shelves this week after a salmonella outbreak was traced, by the Food and Drug Administration, back to the Peanut Corporation of America.

Caroline Kennedy withdrew from the race for the Senate seat vacated by Hillary Clinton for personal reasons. The Governor of New York, David Patterson, named Kirsten Gillibrand to the seat shortly thereafter.

Fifteen sharks at the Indianapolis Zoo's Oceans exhibit died after a maintenance system released too much ozone into the tank, damaging the shark's gills. The mistake occurred when the aquarium's life support systems were restarted after a repair.

A fault line was found in Eastern Arkansas that could potentially trigger a **earthquake** of magnitude seven or higher on the Richter scale, powerful enough to make the Mississippi River run backwards, as it did in 1811 and 1812.

Harley-Davidson Inc. announced on Friday that it would cut 1,100 jobs over the next two years and close some facilities. Fourth quarter profits for the company fell nearly 60 percent.

United States President Barack Obama reversed the **"Mexico City policy,"** which prohibits U.S. money from funding overseas family planning clinics. The policy was initially put into place during the Reagan administration.

Pope Benedict XVI has launched a page on **YouTube**, in effort to spread Catholicism around the world, and reach out to a new generation.

A man with a black-and-white-painted face attacked a day care in **Belgium**, stabbing children and staff at the day care. Two children and one staff member were killed and several others were wounded.

Roughly 200,000 primary school teachers in **Kenya** went on strike after talks with the government over pay were unsuccessful. The strike is expected to spread to secondary schools and has affected over 8.2 million children.

The Food and Drug Administration cleared the way for **embryonic stem cell research** that would test the effects of stem cells on spinal cord injuries.

A **cholera outbreak** in Zimbabwe has shifted into the rural areas of the nation, and the infection is spreading to the wet season. Over 2,755 people have died.

The **Indian Prime Minister**, Manmohan Singh, 76, checked into a hospital in Delhi for coronary artery bypass surgery after doctors found two blockages in his arteries. Singh also had bypass surgery in 1990.

Gosat, a **Japanese satellite**, was launched to circle the Earth. Observations taken from the satellite will be used toward studies to prevent global warming.



Obama's inaugural plan

LB Williams
Staff Writer

With standing room only, over 85 Colorado School of Mines (CSM) faculty, staff, and students focused on a tiny TV screen in Student Center Ballroom C to watch the Inauguration Ceremony of the United States of America's 44th President. A broad spectrum of political and religious views was represented at this event hosted by the CSM Democrats.

Yes, Barack Hussein Obama II is our nation's first President of African-American descent. Definitely historic and wonderful, the jubilation for the ceremony was colorblind.

When asked about the flubbed Oath of Office, no one thought Obama suddenly unintelligent. In fact, all who commented thought it endearing that he was "so nervous and excited." Total jubilation was muted, though. America is looking at hard times. Not since 1932 has a President faced more internal national challenges. America elected a leader whom they hope will make the tough calls to improve the nation's economy and well-being.

Inaugural speeches are meant to outline the coming four years of US policy. What would Obama say about our economy? Great minds and big mouths were debating, with no foreseeable consensus, possible economic strategies right up to the minute of Obama's Inaugural Speech. And then the world grew silent and

listened.

Obama began by thanking Bush for his service to the nation, the smooth transition, and then proceeded to list how decades of political priorities had gone wrong, culminating in the Bush Administration's near failure of our American system and ideals.

From our history, to forge our futures, we must once again choose hope over fear, Obama said, "[we must] make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age... [America's] journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less." Our forbearers "toiled...endured...plowed... they fought and died...struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life...This is the journey we continue today."

What will this collective journey entail? It will be a New Deal for a new century. "For everywhere we look, there is work to be done."

"Our health care is too costly; our schools fail too many; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy...

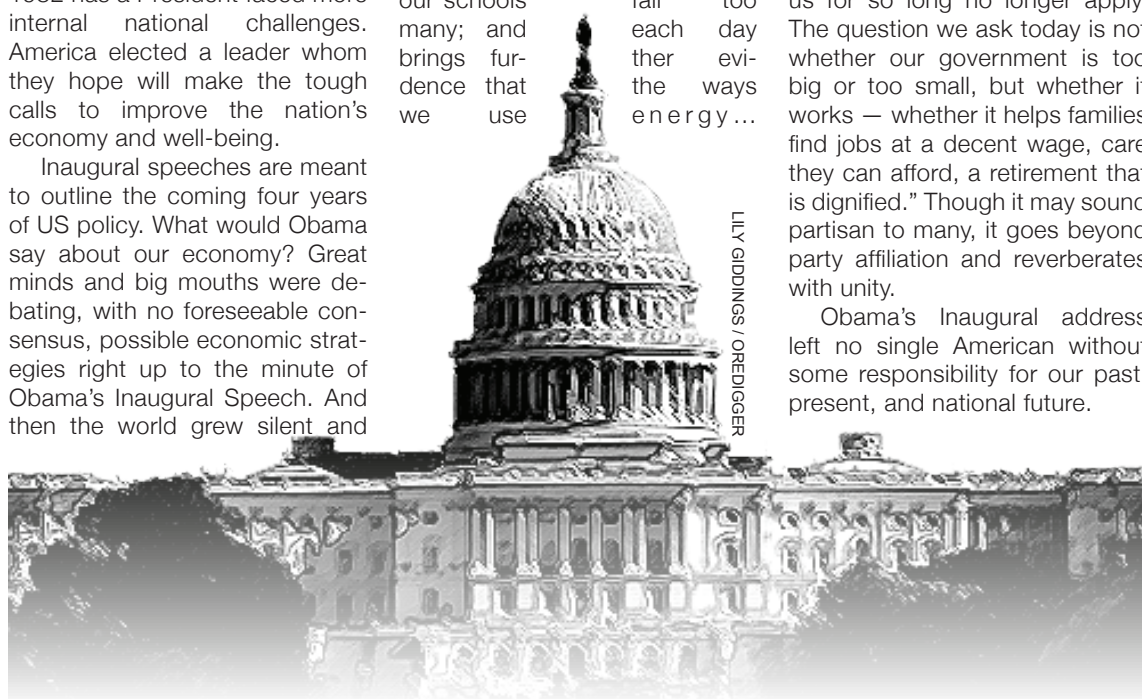
threaten our planet. These are the indicators of crisis."

Let America pause to reevaluate and begin to invest in well-thought out and planned endeavors. "Our minds are no less inventive... Our capacity remains undiminished. All this we can do. All this we will do."

President Obama exhibited a comprehensive and pragmatic foreign policy initiative. A call to all nation types for a pledge from poor nations to "let clean waters flow... and feed hungry minds." To industrialized countries he said, "We can no longer... consume the world's resources without regard to effect," and he eloquently offered peace to the authoritarian nations, "we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

For all the Republicans whose hope these interim months has been that Obama won't be the leftist politician that Democrats all hoped for, "...Stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply. The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works — whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified." Though it may sound partisan to many, it goes beyond party affiliation and reverberates with unity.

Obama's Inaugural address left no single American without some responsibility for our past, present, and national future.



Acoustics in the real world

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The real-world application of his research is vast. The success of his laboratory experiments in concentrating aerosols at ARA drew considerable interest from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, a subsidiary of the U.S. Department of Defense, for an application involving bio-aerosol detection. "They are trying to detect one spore of anthrax in a liter of air, and they need 1,000 spores collected in order to have a good detection," said Meegan. "So that's 1,000 liters of air they need to draw in."

Using theoretical modeling techniques, Meegan demonstrated that pre-processing the air upstream using acoustic manipulation could improve aerosol sampling and eliminate the need for such a huge volume of air. The filterless purification added another advantage. "Chemical aerosols will eventually bleed through. If there is a biological agent [present], it will need to be handled very carefully to be removed from the HEPA filter," Meegan explained. "The filterless purification elimi-

nates these issues."

Industry has also been interested in Meegan's research. For the coal power plant industry, his team has tested acoustic manipulation for the agglomeration of exhaust particles. By applying a sound field to small particles, they were able to accelerate the rate the finer particles agglomerated into larger species, which were then more efficiently removed using the plants' existing precipitators.

The coal power industry has also inspired Meegan to research acoustic acceleration of vapor adsorption. "Over the last ten years, there has been a lot of focus on mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants," Meegan said. "The leading approach currently is sorbent injection...where the mercury vapor is adsorbed and then removed." But he quickly explained that these sorbents have not been highly efficient in removing the toxic metal, and the Environmental Protection Agency has been pushing for more stringent emission limits.

Meegan's setup demonstrated

an increase in vapor adsorption by as much as 20%, depending on the applied acoustic frequency. Meegan explained that many scientists have reported accelerated chemical reactions under the influence of sound waves, but stimulating adsorption for this application was a novel approach. "This [acoustic module] can be retrofitted to an existing power plant," Meegan said, "which makes clean coal technology a real possibility."

Dr. Meegan closed the lecture with a humble summary of this small, yet impressive, sampling of his research accomplishments in acoustic manipulation. But he quickly added the need for increased communication between the needs of industry and the abilities of researchers. "This is good research, but it's very important to answer the questions posed by industry," Meegan said. "Can net power or cost be reduced? And can the logistics be improved?"

One thing has been clear—Dr. Meegan has been harnessing the power of sound waves to improve the efficiency of many particulate processes—and it has been music to the ears of the government and industry.

SEG Lecture: Royal Gold and the royalty business model

David Underwood
Staff Writer

Stan Dempsey, CEO of Royal Gold, gave a presentation on his corporation on the evening of January 19 for the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG). "If you don't buy some stock after you leave here, I haven't done my job," Dempsey stated, only half jokingly. Describing Royal Gold as a high return, low risk operation, Dempsey explained the many virtues of his corporation convincingly.

Royal Gold is a precious metals royalty corporation that deals almost exclusively with gold. Its portfolio is dominated by 78% gold, the rest going to silver and other metals. A royalty company is one that purchases a stake in the company and earns a royalty, or some percentage of the companies earnings based on the size of the original stake in the company purchased. Mining

operations are expensive ventures, and not surprisingly, entities undertaking operations need sources of funding. Often these entities will turn to banks or royalty companies in order to get the funds they need to complete their projects. Unlike going into debt, as is the case of a loan for using a bank, when a company sells a royalty, their relationship is permanent - "A royalty is forever" as Dempsey put it. The difference is that "banks don't take any risks. That makes [Royal Gold] competitive."

A royalty company is involved with the risky processes of exploration and operation. This makes the corporation very simple, and, according to Dempsey, they "Only need someone to cash the checks" in order to do business. In reality, they employ many more people such as geologists and engineers in order to increase the size of the business and acquire new royalty contracts. The royalty model of a corporation is an interesting business to look into for those interested in investments. Most lie in the precious metals industry, but there are a few out there that venture into other industries, but if one would take Dempsey's advice, they would be best to stick in with gold.

Dempsey worked for several smaller operations in his pre-Royal Gold years and knows how they work. His past experiences lead him to be "biased towards working with major companies." He always makes it his aim to go

The royalty model of a corporation is an interesting business to look into for those interested in investments.

to the core operations. He has found throughout his experience that "marginal mines are always marginal. Good mines get

better." This strategy has done well for him, as a company that started with just one royalty is now a \$1.6 billion enterprise with between six and seven hundred thousand shares being traded daily on both the NASDAQ and the Toronto exchanges. Dempsey brings a strong business model forward and reliable investing experience.

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Music Review

For the love of the Game. Pillar

★★★★★

Ben Johnson
Staff Writer

Background

Pillar is one of those bands that seems to have been around forever and seems to release an album nearly every year. This usually results in a lack of quality or a band that is simply that good. Pillar fits somewhere in the middle. Each of their previous eleven albums, some of which are re-releases and deluxe editions, have maintained a very high quality of production, song writing, and musical ability. Despite the amount of records produced, only a couple of Pillar's albums stand out in the crowd of rock albums (*Fireproof*, *Where Do We Go from Here*). With each new album Pillar either slightly or dramatically shifts their musical style. From the rap-rock style of *Above* to the nu-metal of *Fireproof* to the hard rock of *Where Do We Go from Here* and *The Reckoning* to the calmer, yet passionate, hard rock of *For the Love of the Game*, Pillar has been all over the place. However, Pillar has yet to compromise great songwriting and undeniably catchy tunes.

Memorable Song

Surprisingly, the best song on this album is a ballad. For a rock band like Pillar this often spells disaster for the album. The opposite is the case in this instance; as the fifth track on the album, "Smiling Down" offers a fresh and powerful



break from the head-banging rock offered on the first four tracks and introduces a new path for the album. Save one track, "The Runaway," the rest of the album takes on a deeper, serious sound with more passionate lyrics and emotional musicianship. This track is a great intro to what turns into a fantastic second half of the album.

Forgettable Song

"The Runaway" is easily the worst song of the album because it seems vastly out of place after the captivating track before it, "Smiling Down." With boring verses and a wandering chorus the track disrupts the flow provided from the previous tracks and after a ballad, the strange, peppy beat on the track ruins the aura. The track should have not made the record and the track following it, "Throwdown," should have taken its place.

In Closing

During the first part of the album, driving beats fill most of the songs. Tracks like "Smiling Down," "Get Back," "I Fade Away," and "Forever Starts Now" give a reprieve from the normalcy found on the previous tracks and offer a distinct and exceptional change to the album. The last song, "Forever Starts Now," is a song that offers a tremendous climax to the album and leaves the listener wanting more. Pillar has yet again provided a solid album but one that is hard to place in the confusing direction Pillar has been going as a band. This album is a very pleasing listen with several songs that are hard to forget; hopefully their next album will show a more consistent direction as a band. Overall, this is one of Pillar's best albums.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

Movie Review: Oldboy

Greg Davies
Staff Writer

Korean film *Oldboy*, released in 2003, is the second in Director Chan-Wook Park's loosely associated trilogy highlighting the intricacies of revenge. This critically acclaimed film (winner of prestigious honors such as the Cannes Film Festival's Grand Prix prize) is full of intrigue, suspense, and gore. At times, the Kafkaesque plot mixes well with highly stylized directing and terrific acting, creating a very watchable and exciting film.

Oh Dae-su (Choi Min-Sik) is introduced sitting in a police station, having been taken into custody for irresponsible drunkenness. While chained to the wall, he rambles semi-coherently at the police, who tolerate his incredibly obnoxious tendencies with forced professionalism. He reveals that it is his daughter's birthday, and he demonstrates the pair of butterfly wings he has bought for her. Straining helplessly against his bonds while wearing his ridiculous butterfly costume, it is clear that Oh Dae-su lives his life in a state of pathetic uselessness, not even reliable enough to stay sober for his young daughter's birthday. His friend shows up to take him home, and Dae-su stops by a phone booth to make a call to his daughter. When his friend turns around, Dae-su has disappeared.

Waking up the next morning, Dae-su discovers himself in a featureless motel room which has been converted into a prison. Food is sent to him through a slot under the door, and he is

periodically drugged unconscious so that his room can be cleaned and his sheets replaced. Dae-su's only companion is the television in his room, which allows him to keep track of the days and informs him that his wife has been murdered, and that even if he were released he would be under

Although *Oldboy* sounds like fairly standard revenge film, the movie distinguishes itself with its intriguingly convoluted plot, stylish directing, and terrific acting.

suspicion.

As the years slowly pass, Oh Dae-su's grip on his sanity becomes increasingly tenuous. In between his occasional suicide attempts and hallucinations of bugs crawling under his skin, Oh Dae-su spends all his time wondering who would want him in captivity and how he can get revenge. After fifteen years in captivity, Dae-su is set free as mysteriously as he was kidnapped, and discovers that he only has a limited amount of time to seek answers and vengeance.

Although *Oldboy* sounds like fairly standard revenge film, the movie distinguishes itself with its intriguingly convoluted plot, stylish directing, and terrific acting. Director Chan-Wook Park, who is arguably South Korea's most influential filmmaker, makes every moment unique and the pacing never slows down. *Oldboy*, keeping in the tradition of Park's loosely defined "vengeance trilogy," deals with the moral complexities of revenge. Whereas the first

movie in the trilogy, *Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance*, contained wildly excessive amounts of torture and gore and *Lady Vengeance* allowed its excessive style and symbolism to interfere with the revenge story, *Oldboy* achieves a near-perfect balance of gore and symbolism, creating a revenge movie with both style and substance.

At the core of *Oldboy*'s appeal is Choi Min-Sik's performance as the film's tormented protagonist. In addition to the impressive physical transformation involved in portraying both an overweight business man and a lean, animalistic killer, Choi is also seen biting the head off of a live octopus and fighting his way through a crowded hallway full of thugs in a brutal, single-take action scene. However, none of this gimmickry would matter without acting abilities to back it up. Choi manages to hit all the right notes as he conveys feelings ranging from blind rage to utter despair.

Oldboy, though a terrific film, is certainly not for everybody. In addition to the aforementioned octopus scene, the movie also contains scenes of torture and self-mutilation and remains profoundly disturbing on many levels. However, anyone willing to weather the dark themes and violence will find *Oldboy* an incredibly worthwhile film. With an American version in production apparently being made by Steven Spielberg and starring Will Smith, now is the perfect time to catch watch *Oldboy* while the plot remains unique and unspoiled.

Must See Movies

Racism

Benjamin M. Weilert, Staff Writer

With the inauguration of President Barack Obama this last week, some (like comedian Stephen Colbert) hailed this event as the end of racism. Granted, this momentous occasion does tend to show a changing culture in America, where race is something accepted about a person instead of despised. Even as it is, there are people who choose to think by the old standards of superiority among races. This week's Must See Movies highlights racism at its worst, so that we may all learn to be accepting of others.

1. Crash (2004)

America has long been portrayed as a melting pot where people from many different backgrounds come together and mix into a unique country. However, this mixing doesn't go as smoothly as it should. Take, for example, the city of Los Angeles. In *Crash*, we see people of many different backgrounds ranging from Persians, Koreans, Mexicans, and African-Americans all being forced to mix together in L.A. The multiple, intertwining storylines show that no matter your background, there is at least one group of people you can't stand. A line from the musical *Avenue Q* sums up this movie succinctly in saying, "Everyone's a little bit racist." Still, this look into modern America and its tolerances (or lack thereof) was well received, earning *Crash* the Best Picture Oscar for 2004.

2. In the Heat of the Night (1967)

When the murder of a white businessman hits a small town in the South, the first suspect just happens to be an African-American who is visiting from Philadelphia. Unfortunately, this "Southern hospitality" backfires to an extent when the suspect, Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier) just happens to be a prominent homicide detective from Philadelphia. This gripping crime drama unfolds to show that some people cannot get past the color of another's skin, even if that person is the only one who can produce results. Perhaps this phenomenon is entirely due to the rigidity of Southern thinking at the time. Still, *In the Heat of the Night* has earned its recognition through winning the Best Picture Oscar that year and being placed at #75 on the American Film Institute's new top 100 list.

3. Do the Right Thing (1989)

Everyone knows that when it gets unbearably hot outside, the things that are normally tolerated become almost as unbearable as the weather. In *Do the Right Thing*, Spike Lee (who also plays Mookie in the film) gives a look into a Brooklyn neighborhood where tensions between the blacks and the Italians start to boil in the extreme heat. Even individuals who are relatively tolerant start to break down after incidents start occurring that push them over the edge. Unfortunately, the entire situation degenerates to a state of violence that ends poorly for all parties involved. AFI found this movie to be a staple of American cinema by placing it at #96 on their recent top 100 list.

For Homework – See *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* (1967)

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Concert Review: Young Coyotes at the Hi-Dive

Tim Weilert
Content Manager

What happens when you mix one of Denver's best hipster bars with some of the best up-and-coming local musicians? The answer: last Friday's Young Coyotes show at the Hi-Dive.

I was first introduced to Young Coyotes during winter break, when I saw them open for the Hot IQs. Even then, I knew I wanted to hear more of their fresh style of music. Before I dive headfirst into a review, let's start with a little background.

In mid-2008, Atlanta based band Moros Eros broke up. A few months later Greeley, CO

band The Axe That Chopped the Cherry Tree also called it quits. Zach Tipon and Adam Halferty, who had played and toured together in the above-mentioned bands, decided to start something new. Since then, Young Coyotes have been keeping busy touring and recording material for their upcoming release.

Critics, both local and national, have not let Young Coyotes go unnoticed. Most recently, they were featured in the January issue of Marquee magazine, a Denver music-scene guide, and back in December they recorded a session at Day-trotter, a famous recording studio and website that offers free mp3s of exclusively recorded sessions with some of the biggest names in indie. Needless to say, there was a certain air of excitement

at the venue last Friday.

The one word I have used to describe the entire night is

It would be difficult to accurately describe their sound, but there is one thing that is certain: they put on an entertaining performance.

accurately describe their sound, but there is one thing that is certain, they put on an entertaining performance.

Finally, it was time for Young Coyotes. They came out and began with one of their more popular songs, "Momentary Drowning." From there, they played through a number of "older" tunes and new

material. I use quotes when saying "older" because this is still an incredibly fresh group, they don't really have any old songs, just ones that are already available via MySpace. They continued to play through their set, occasionally stopping to figure out which song to do next. Friends of the band shouted out for different songs as the set list wandered throughout

relaxed. Even from the first local band, The Wheel, the show played out like a bunch of old friends getting together for a party. The Wheel's singer, Nathaniel Rateliff, played a reverberated classical guitar while belting out deep, reflective lyrics with his unique baritone. He was backed up by Joseph Pope, who provided organ parts which provided the necessary bass and a polished sound.

Next up was another local group, Bad Weather California. Lead singer Chris Adolf's intense delivery and Adam Baumiester's pedal steel guitar work gave them a unique sound. Think Beach Boys meets Black Flag meets steel guitar. To be entirely honest, it would be difficult to

the night. During the course of the show, Tipon announced that the group would release about 12 tracks sometime toward the end of February. As they tried to finish their set, the crowd asked for another song and the Young Coyotes delivered. Overall it was a great show, it was well mixed and featured what makes the Denver music what it is: real, talented musicians.



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

Concert Review: The Swingle Singers, Bach to Beatles

Benjamin M. Weilert
Content Manager

This last Friday night, the sounds of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Little Organ Fugue" could be heard in the sanctuary of Augustana Lutheran Church. However, the pipes of the organ were strangely silent. The only sounds came from the eight-person a cappella group known as the Swingle Singers.

Started in the early sixties by Ward Swingle, this group of four men and four women has been doing the work of a full orchestra solely with their voices. In forty years, the singers may have changed from the original Paris-based jazz session singers, but the sound has stayed the same. With a mixture of jazz scat, beatboxing, and traditional a cappella, the Swingle Singers cover songs from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart all the way to James Taylor.

Since their first album was released back in 1963, the Swingle Singers have released over fifty albums, five of which have won Grammy awards. Their covers of classical masterpieces have even been heard in motion pictures such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *Thank You for Smoking*. With members that are diverse and multi-cultural, it is no wonder that this group has been known to cover traditional songs from all over the world, as well as tour in these regions.

The show in Denver last Friday was their second U.S. show on their current tour. Take in mind, that a concert for this group falls more under the category of a symphony performance than a rock concert. Still, with some well-done lighting and choreography, spliced together with humor and audience participation, the Swingle Singers put on a good show.

Pieces like J.S. Bach's "Badinerie" were sung with upbeat and catchy rhythms, but still remained true to the original. Even well known pieces like the opening movement of Beethoven's fifth symphony were sung as remixed versions. Walter Murphy's "A Fifth of Beethoven" was sung not only as a tribute to Beethoven, but as a tribute to the remixing art form to which the Swingle Singers belong. With a classical background, the Swingle Singers are able to make even the most recognizable songs hauntingly beautiful. Renditions of "Amazing Grace" and an arrangement of The Beatles "Blackbird" and "I Will" would give anyone goosebumps.

However, the concert did not exclusively feature their singing. It also was a chance to sit down with the Swingle Singers and learn about their style and the intricacies of their art. The basses of the group, Kevin Fox and Tobias Hug, gave a demonstration of their "musical instruments" of bass and drums in a short beatbox session. Before a medley of traditional American folk songs in three minutes, Kevin Fox told the audience to attempt to pick out all the different songs and gave the disclaimer, "Do not try this at home."

Going to a concert of the Swingle Singers is a somewhat more intimate affair than most classical symphony performances, and is as much fun as it is beautiful. However, the average age of the audience hovering around 60 would even make a 23-year old feel really young. Still, if a group of friends go together, it would be an enjoyable evening. The Swingle Singers are coming back through the United States at the end of April and should not be missed for any fans of classical, jazz, or a cappella music.

This group has been doing the work of a full orchestra solely with their voices.

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Campus benefactors

Jake Rezac
Content Manager

At almost any time, day or night, Paul Meyer Hall is full of Mines Physics students and professors. Some of the hardest working people on campus, these brave souls voraciously study concepts related to math, physics, and chemistry in an attempt to understand the workings of the universe. These students are modern-day analogues to the man after whom the hall is named – Dr. Paul Meyer.

Meyer was born in Switzerland in 1854 to an influential and noted cleric. He was expected to follow in the same path as his father, studying (and mastering) Greek and Latin as a young child and even proselytizing from the pulpit from time to time as a youth. However, as Meyer aged, his devotion to religion waned, and he turned instead to what would be his defining characteristic for the rest of his life, the obsessive study of the sciences.

Meyer displayed his genius and affinity for knowledge from an early age, graduating from the University of Berne at age 13, receiving a medical degree from the University of Heidelberg at age 18, and his first Ph.D. from the University of Berlin at age 20. While earning these de-

grees, Meyer was also a professor at a German University where he would begin his intensive study of math and physics.

In 1875, at 21 years old, Meyer decided to leave Germany and move to Denver. He would practice medicine in Denver for a little less than a year before deciding he didn't like Denver and moving to Golden. He would practice medicine in Golden until his death, 54 years later, and would become a prominent figure in the city.

His unwavering devotion to his patients, along with his extensive and eccentric collection of knowledge, garnered the attention of Mines President Dr. Regis Chauvenet (after whom Chauvenet Hall is named). In 1883, Chauvenet asked Meyer to teach mathematics at the recently created School of the Mines, which, at the time, was deemed destined to fail by outside observers.

Over the next 17 years, Meyer would teach at Mines and help the school to gain the reputation it has today for producing adept students in the geophysical and engineering disciplines. Meyer was well-loved by his students, who deeply appreciated his extensive intellect and testified that some of the methods he created were decades ahead of their time. Despite this knowledge, Meyer often refused to pass knowledge on

to any but his students, writing his own textbooks and refusing to have them published. It has been said that Meyer was so obsessed with garnering knowledge that he neglected to pass the knowledge down to anyone else.

Meyer's hobbies were not contained simply to the study of math and science. He was described to be an excellent violinist, even owning a replica of a Stradivarius violin made in the 1780s (this violin can be seen in a display case on the east side of the first floor of Meyer Hall). However, much like he hoarded his extensive knowledge, he also kept his violin playing to himself. It is said that he would only perform when alone or for his young daughter. Meyer was also an extensive reader, owning an impressive library of books and his own notes on those books. When he died, a collection of notes weighing almost a ton was found in his house.

In 1900, Meyer retired from teaching, deciding to dedicate himself to his medical practice. He would remain a common figure throughout Golden and Mines, easily recognized by his long hair, full beard, and gold-handled cane, which was a gift from the Class of 1900.

Meyer was a brilliant man, generations ahead of his time. He was well-versed in almost every scientific field of the time, but still found time to care for his patients as a doctor. He was reportedly a very warm person, who was tolerant to any way of life, and who cared deeply for those who knew him best. Although he donated no money to the school for the building named after him, the attention he gained while a professor at the school was so great that in 1963, when the building was being built at Mines, the school decided to name it after him – a monument for a man who was caring, exceptionally intelligent, and who helped to make the school what it is today.

Information from <http://oia.mines.edu/tour/meyer/01.htm> and plaque inside Meyer Hall.



JAKE REZAC / OREDIGGER

M-Blem bulb recap

Aleksander Pruitt
Staff Writer

For those who are not familiar with Blue Key, they take care of the M-Blem, Blaster, and Spirit Couches at basketball games. Tyler Benton, Kim See, and Steve Meyerhoff, officers in the Mines chapter of Blue Key, which, according to Meyerhoff, "started out as a group of vigilantes," have come a long way from their humble origins. They have progressed so far as to make an eye-popping \$6000 profit from the sale of incandescent "M-Bulbs" with laser M-Blem engravings.

The incredible success was a total surprise to the skeptics who thought there was no profit incentive at work here. According to Benton, the original intent was to recycle. "We had 2000 of these incandescent lights which Steve [Meyerhoff] was behind switching them over from incandescent to LED's," he said. Both See and Benton pointed to Meyerhoff as being the originator of it all. Meyerhoff denies this, indicating his main interest is more on the technical nature of things. His focus is towards a long-term project, using wind and solar power so that the "M" will eventually be self-sustaining. Another dig at economists

was the price of the M-Bulbs. They were sold at \$5 a piece, leading to a shortage on the first day. Benton and See joked that they could have been sold for \$10 or \$20 or more. One lady even went so far as to offer \$25. When asked why not simply raise the price, See stated, "[We] don't want to be greedy." A maximum amount of two purchases per person was enforced so as to make it possible for everyone to acquire a bulb. The bulbs were so desirable among alumni that even broken bulbs or those without engravings were bought.

Although it would be understandable that the profits from the M-Bulbs would be reinvested in Blue Key, the funds are to be used outside of Mines. Blue Key member Kelsey Zabrusky suggested they donate to Energy Outreach, a charity that assists needy Colorado families with their energy bills. When asked why they are not retaining the earnings, See replied with Blue Key's motto, "Serving, I live." Meyerhoff also pointed out that the "PR gained from the event would help Blue Key more" than re-investing those funds.

The donation to Energy Outreach will be held at the Jefferson County Action Center in Lakewood on Wednesday, January 28.



ALEKSANDER PRUITT / OREDIGGER

A lit legacy. A person peruses former lightbulbs from the M.

Geek of the Week ...Laura Pate, Graduate Student: Materials Science

Sarah McMurray
Staff Writer

Do you consider yourself a geek?

I consider myself to be a nerd. To me, the word "Geek" has a lot of negative connotations with regards to social skills and does not really imply that one is intelligent.

How would you define nerd?

I would say that a nerd is a someone who pursues intellectual activities and obscure interests and is usually unconcerned with how their fields of focus are viewed by others... they really don't care if their pursuits are considered "cool" by the rest of society.

Do you think others consider you a geek? Why?

I am sure that many other people think I am nerdy. I carry graph paper with me everywhere I go because I find that drawing graphs is an efficient way to convey my thoughts to others. Or maybe they think I'm nerdy because I reference Star Trek a lot?

What Star Trek character

do you most identify with?

I don't really identify with any particular character. I believe most Star Trek fans identify with the overall themes of discovery and exploration.

What is the geekiest thing you own?

I have an element collection that I've been working on for a couple of years.

What element are you most excited about?

My most recent acquisition has been a large piece of pure Bismuth that was fabricated in a German lab. It has a really neat rhombic crystal structure.

What element are you most looking forward to obtaining?

I'm really looking forward to getting some of the rare earth elements, but they can be very expensive.

How did you decide to start this collection?

I studied metallurgical and materials engineering which exposed me to a wide number of elements and their properties, and gave me a great appreciation for the elements and for

what it takes to process them to a high purity.

What is the geekiest thing you have ever done?

I went to Las Vegas for a conference and in my free time I didn't bother to gamble, I went to the Star Trek Experience instead.

Did you dress up?

The Star Trek Experience was a themed attraction the Hilton, part live performance and part museum.

Do you speak klingon?

I plead the fifth on this one.

Do you at least own a klingon/English dictionary?

[laughs] NO... That's what the Internet is for!

What made you choose Mines?

I transferred into Mines as an undergraduate and had such a great experience that Mines was my #1 choice for graduate school.

What class has been your favorite?

I've really enjoyed organic chemistry. The teacher is excellent and it is really neat to understand why and how molecules react.

What do you plan on doing

after leaving Mines?

I'd like to work in industry again, this time doing research and development on biologically compatible materials.

Do you have any advice for new grad students?

Take the time to talk with professors in other departments who are doing research that is related to what you want to do. Those connections are very valuable.

What are your hobbies?

I read books, do needlepoint, and refinish furniture. I'm also trying to visit every hot spring

in Colorado.

What is your favorite hot spring so far?

It is so hard to choose because they all have features that make them unique.

What is the subject of your favorite needlepoint piece?

It's a bunch of squares of different colors. I really like squares.



SARAH MCMURRAY / OREDIGGER

Club Spotlight: CSM Republicans

David Underwood
Staff Writer

Providing students with opportunities to discuss politics, the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) Republicans Club brings political diversity and openness to the table in many forms. For instance, the group recently watched the documentary "Super Size Me" and discussed its implications to the U.S. in areas such as health-care and insurance cost. Many more movies are planned for the future. Their purpose is to discuss political views, watch movies, and just have fun.

John Harrelson, a sophomore Petroleum Engineer and president of the CSM Republicans, was quite cordial and conversational. If he is any indication of the rest of the club, it would surely be an open atmosphere to talk. He has a passion for politics because "politics affects everyone's lives," and he wants to be involved in that process, giving the people a voice. His reasons for choosing Republican are simple. "I believe in small government," and "You should keep what you work for," he said. Harrelson, however, does not just

want people that share his views. He invites everyone to "Come, discuss, laugh, and share [their] views."

Harrelson is looking to draw in people from all walks of life since "Republicans are very diverse [and I want my] group to reflect that." With Harrelson at the helm, the CSM Republicans plan on growing. Although the club officially has over 100 registered members, the number of regular attendees is somewhat smaller, making it a more personal group.

"Republicans are very diverse [and I want my] group to reflect that."

Their goal this year is to bring the number of active members up to around 20 or

30 members. Harrelson wants to bring in other people to share his passion for politics. He constantly hears passionate speech from many people, and yet it seems to him that so few people are actually involved in politics.

Harrelson cordially invites everyone to come to the meetings, saying they have "plenty of tissues for those disappointed with the election." They are also looking into going on a trip to the Denver Mint. The CSM Republicans meet every Monday from 4 to 6 PM in Student Center room 236.

New McBride director

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

The McBride program is one that breaks the traditional borders of Mines academia. The program focuses on public affairs in addition to emphasizing current world issues. The ever-changing realm of politics, energy, and conservation are now at the forefront of study for disciplines ranging from engineering to biology to government. Entering into a new season, the McBride program recently named Dr. Arthur Sacks the new director. As the new director, he will face demands to educate students. In Sacks's words, "To be global citizens, and learn to be active participants in the community."

Although Sacks is the new McBride director, he has been part of the Liberal Arts and International Studies (LAIS) program at Mines for 15 years and said, "I understand the goals of the program well." Part of his agenda as director is to hire more faculty members to work in the LAIS program who are educated in the liberal arts. Currently, many of those who work in LAIS are professors in engineering classes which has been part of the history of the program but Sacks wants to see the stream of new faces in the program be "renewed, or regenerated."

A new curriculum is also sure to come. "People and curriculum go together, new people lead to new curriculum," said Sacks. He also

said that it is far too soon to see these changes take place. Even by next fall there is a small probability that there would be many noticeable changes in the program. Ideas that he wants to implement center around environment and sustainability, which Sacks said are "already current, and in the school's mission," but ones that he wants to have greater focus on and develop an increased urgency in understanding and progressing in.

Sacks wants to see more students involved in LAIS and the McBride program, stating that students "will be more insightful and well rounded." He emphasized that students need to be aware of the world they live in. "Engineers spend more than fifty percent of their time communicating," said Sacks, "The higher you go, the more you need to understand about the world." Another insight that Sacks wants to infuse into the program and the school is the realization that "there is a difference between life and your career; your career helps support your life but it is only part of the total picture. No one wants to live with regrets; education is preparation to live a good life, but it is

only a piece of life, remember to focus on things that really matter."

One of the many challenges of heading the McBride program will be funding. "We need more resources because finances are tight and our budgets and endowments are down," said Sacks. A solution he suggested was to do fundraising which he also said would "help attract new faculty and students to the McBride Honors program with new funding." The school's limited budget and student participation is stretched between many competing programs such as the programs in Humanitarian Engineering and energy. However, Sacks is optimistic, saying, "New opportunities equal more interest in the program."



BENJAMIN JOHNSON / OREDIGGER

Famous chemist comes to life

Neelha Mudigonda
Content Manager

"Marie Curie is, of all celebrated things, the only one whom fame has not corrupted," said Albert Einstein.

MANYA – A Living History of Marie Curie, a play that took place in the Bunker Auditorium last Friday, left the audience with a variety of responses concerning the actress's portrayal of Marie Curie. Organized by the American Chemical Society (ACS) in conjunction with the Student Activities department, the play was a free event in hopes to raise money for the ACS.

The entire play was carried out by one actress, Storysmith Susan Marie Frontczak. Frontczak, an engineer at one point in her life, has been storytelling and representing various historical figures in narrative scripts such as *Vanishing Voices*, *Mary Shelley Speaks*, and *Eleanor Roosevelt: This is My Story* for over two decades. In her words, what drove Frontczak to depict Marie Curie was the storyteller's "polish heritage," "passion for sciences," and her drive to "reveal the human behind a scientist." She used Curie's real quotes and journal entries during the play. Frontczak introduced the play by illustrating the obstacles Curie had to surpass in order to attend a university in France, Curie's first step to answer many of her curious questions. The actress presented the audience with aspects of Curie's life that one would usually not think about – like how Curie raised her daughters and managed the household and the emotions she went through upon her husband's death. The play continued to tell Curie's story until her Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911 and the beginnings of World War I.

Alina Yadon, a Chemistry major at Mines, admired the play by saying, "It's very intriguing. It's great that [the actress] actually pretends to be Marie Curie instead of just dictating about her life."

David Danford, a Computer Science major, said "It's a better way to learn about chemistry than sitting in class. I learned about fractional crystallization. I didn't remember that from chemistry class."

Not only was the play a positive experience for the students, but it was also enlightening for some of the Mines staff who had attended. "I'm really impressed," said Dr. Cowley, a professor in the Chemistry department, "Not only is it interesting from a scientific perspective, but also from a historical context. It's great that [the actress] is bringing it to life. I didn't know some of the things about Madame Curie – like polonium was named after Poland."

Some audience members, however, were skeptical about the play. Another staff member thought that the play was just "okay" and if "Hiroshima was really worth it," referring to Curie's work in radioactivity.

Some students just attended the play for class assignments or extra credit and didn't seem to enjoy the play much at all. Aaron Cowles, a Materials Science student, said, "I hate the accent," referring to the actress's Polish accent, "It's driving me crazy, and I can't take it much longer."

The play ended with Frontczak answering a few of the audience's questions about Curie's life and once again, reminding the audience that education, in Curie's opinion, was the way to advance civilizations.

"How can we improve the world with education if we weren't allowed to study?" – Marie Curie



SARAH VALOVGIN / OREDIGGER

Communications Center

Greg Davies
Staff Writer

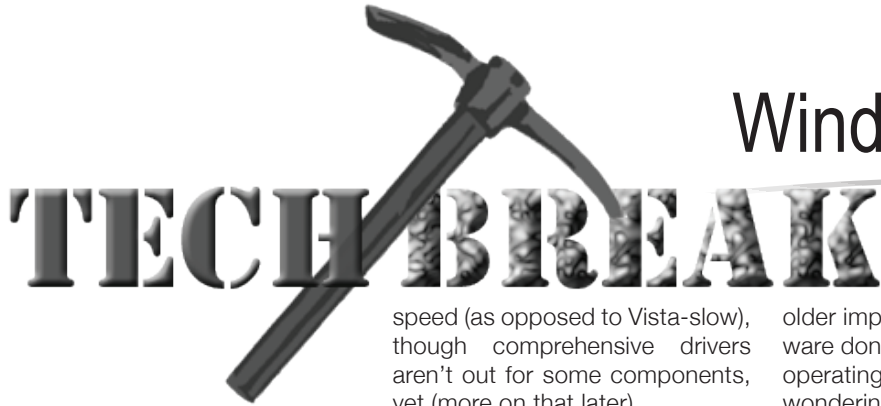
For many students at Mines, delivering presentations is one of the most dreaded things a teacher can demand. Many incredibly gifted and hard-working students find themselves at a total loss when it comes to presenting their knowledge to groups of people. However, skills in communication are very important and they are often neglected at this school. This is why Mines offers assistance in the form of the Communications Center.

The Communications Center is located in Stratton Hall, room 410, and those willing to make the climb on Tuesdays or Fridays from 10 AM to 2 PM can get assistance with both presentations and general speaking skills. Rather than evaluate the content of a presentation, the staff at the Communications Center evaluate the presentation itself. This includes looking at a presenter's poise, facial expressions, and voice inflections. The Communications Center can also instruct people on how to avoid making mistakes such as being overly dependent on PowerPoint presentations.

Although the Communication Center is available as a resource for people looking to improve their presentation skills, it has come to serve another, possibly more important, function, as a place where international students can come to work on their ability to communicate in everyday conversation. Mary Van Zet, director of the center, states that since she took the

job last semester, she has had only about half a dozen students come to the center for feedback on presentations. Instead, the Communications Center acts primarily as a place where students from around the world can discuss anything they desire regarding their experience in the US. International students have the opportunity to ask questions about the meanings of slang expressions and discuss Western culture and values in a space where anybody can talk freely. "I've learned so much of what it's like to be a visitor to this country," states Van Zet. Discussion topics range from dating habits and marital patterns to broader topics of politics and religion. The Communications Center acts to bring together people of different cultures in open discussion.

Although this function is already being filled by the conversation group run by Diane Witter in the same room on Wednesdays from five to six, the popularity of the Communications Center demonstrates that there is a high demand for such a place. Van Zet feels that there is "a niche that isn't quite being filled" in terms of giving international students opportunities to practice expressing themselves. It is for this reason that Communications Center doubled its office hours from just Tuesdays to Tuesdays and Fridays, although it may go back to being exclusively on Tuesdays again. The Communications Center serves an important function on the Mines campus of promoting public discourse and global conversation.



Windows 7: Microsoft is cool again

Ian Littman, Tech Break Columnist

A few weeks ago, Microsoft released Windows 7 in beta form to the thunderous roar of servers across the internet overloading and to the expectant hands of geeks everywhere, looking for an operating system from Microsoft that, frankly, did not suck.

They delivered. In all honesty, I had my hands on the operating system before its general beta release, and even in a previous version, released during Microsoft's Professional Developers Conference, the successor to Windows Vista was pretty much ready for prime time. Now, even more so. The best analogy is the features of Windows Vista and then some with the performance of Windows XP.

If you're looking for a resource hog of an operating system, this isn't it. While Windows 7 still uses more resources than a stripped-down Windows XP install but, it, in all likelihood, will run faster on a machine than either XP or Vista, provided said machine can run Windows XP with alacrity. If you like waiting for your computer to boot up, shut down, or come in and out of standby or hibernation modes, look elsewhere, Windows 7 is positively peppy. Games already tend to run at Windows XP

speed (as opposed to Vista-slow), though comprehensive drivers aren't out for some components, yet (more on that later).

Feature-wise, Windows 7 gets a minor facelift compared with the Fisher-Price-to-crystal-glass makeover that was Windows Vista, but feature placement isn't identical. A close analogy would be upgrading from Windows 95 to Windows 98. One big change is the taskbar. The default size is a bit larger than in older Windows editions, and program names make way for icon-only application presentation. It takes some getting used to, but the operation, reminiscent of Apple's Dock, is smoother than you might think, especially when you figure in Aero Peek. Peek, unlike any operating system I've seen so far, shows you the various windows you have open on a given application (the good old Command Prompt, for example, still lacking tabs), and hides all other windows when you mouse over the one you want. Click and you're switched to that window, as the rest of your desktop fades back into the background. What's interesting is that, while Microsoft has made such a project back before OSX's virtual desktop project, Spaces, even came about, they elected not to include virtual desktops in Windows 7, and

older implementations of the software don't get along with the new operating system. In case you're wondering, you can switch back to the old-school taskbar should you detest the new one.

The features don't stop there. Many included applications have gotten total overhauls or have been moved to optional com-

Beyond that, Windows 7 has a bit of a learning curve on some of its features.

ponent status. The Windows Calculator is now more powerful and both Wordpad and Paint have donned the as-seen-in-Office-2007 ribbon toolbar style, gaining features in the process. If you're looking for mail, instant messenger, or even video editing applications (coming soon), you'll have to download 'em. Take that, antitrust regulators! Windows Media Player is still included (a point of contention with some EU lawyers), and it is better than ever. On the other hand, Internet Explorer 8, though new, is as lame as ever, if not lamer (get Firefox or Google Chrome). Also, no improvements to Notepad and no real suite to compete with Apple's iLife (you may or may not need it, but iLife seems to be a selling point for Macs nowadays).

There are a few rocky spots with the operating system, as is typical in a beta release. Driver support isn't quite there yet, even if your hardware worked well in Vista. My HP LaserJet 1020 printer just flat hasn't gotten along with my Windows 7 installation, though it's not for lack of trying. It is just that there is no piece

of software currently that will make the two mesh. Slightly-nonstandard-component-that-won't-work-with-Windows-7 number two is switchable graphics. If you have a MacBook Pro, IdeaPad U330, Sony Vaio (in some cases), or other computer with two GPUs for different purposes (performance and battery life), the dedicated graphics chip just won't shut down, though you do get that chip's performance (and then some, if you're judging by Vista standards). Even some software programs, like Visual Studio 2005 (a biggie on the Mines campus) don't want to play with Windows 7, though Virtual-Box solves this problem (just run an older Windows, preferably XP, and run your old apps on top of it, as long as they aren't graphics-intensive). Beyond that, Windows 7 has a bit of a learning curve on some of its features. They may be more logically laid out than previous versions of the Microsoft OS, but that doesn't mean it's a

smooth switch. But again, all of these beefs are similar to those of any pre-release, or new, operating system. A pleasantly glaring omission from the complaints list is the bloat that has characterized each successive generation of Windows since, well, the beginning.

In conclusion, Windows 7 build 7000, available via www.windows7.com, is a must-have for geeks who want to check out the latest and greatest, and in most cases the system is good enough for a production environment. For everyone else, Microsoft will have this operating system out when they and their hardware providers (so it seems) are good and ready, meaning you're getting a quality product. For Mac users, Windows is catching up with the aesthetics, performance, and even reliability of Apple operating systems, with the additional burden of supporting dozens of hardware vendors for each component. Plus, Windows 7 runs great in a virtual machine. For everyone, if you have Windows Vista, upgrade when Windows 7 comes out. If you have XP, you should probably do the same, *it is just that good*.

If you want more Tech Break, whether it's a description of DNS or the best Mac deal ever (if you're into that sort of thing), check out the Tech Break blog at <http://mine-sblog.com/techbreak>.

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Super Bowl XLIII preview:

Cardinals finally achieve glory

Matthew Pusard
Staff Writer

Improbably, the Arizona Cardinals have made it to the Super Bowl. Despite being the NFL's longest continuously-run franchise, the Cardinals have been a cornerstone of sporting ineptitude. Originally founded in 1920, the Cardinals were the franchise that no one wanted, having moved from Chicago to St. Louis to their current home in Arizona. They also hadn't won a home playoff game in over 60 years and only made the playoffs 5 times in that span.

All it took to reverse that history was the arm of Kurt Warner and the hands of Larry Fitzgerald.

In the Cardinals' three playoff games, Fitzgerald has caught 23 passes for 419 yards and 5 touchdowns, breaking Jerry Rice's record of 409 yards in a single post-season. Fitzgerald has always been known for his great hands, but he has put it into hyperdrive in his past five games, receiving for 100 yards and a score in every game since week 16. He seems to have perfected the art of catching long passes in double coverage, putting up highlight reel play after highlight reel play. Of course, without Warner's deadly accuracy, he would be much less effective.

Warner improbably revived his career in Arizona after Matt Leinart struggled in his sophomore season. Warner is a former bag boy who started off in NFL Europe and Arena Football before finally landing in the NFL and winning a Super Bowl with the Rams. In St. Louis, Warner was the driving force behind the "Greatest Show on Turf." But a few scant years later, he developed a fumbling problem and became an outcast, going from St. Louis to the New York Giants before finally landing in Arizona.

Now, Kurt Warner, the quarterback that no one wanted, has become Kurt Warner, the likely Hall of Famer. Warner outplayed nearly every other quarterback in the NFL in 2008, including much more hyped guys like Brett Favre and Peyton Manning, by throwing for 30 touchdowns and over 4,500 yards. He is one of the very few people on the Cardinals who has any Super Bowl experience and will be counted on to put up a great game to give the Cardinals any chance of winning.

The Cardinals' opponents will be the Pittsburgh Steelers, the polar opposite of the Cardinals on the football spectrum. While Arizona depends upon spectacular offensive play with an average defense, the Steelers count on a bone-

crushing defense with a serviceable offense.

In many ways, this match-up is the unstoppable force against the immovable object. Pittsburgh let up the fewest points and the second-fewest yards in the league this season, led by the likes of safety Troy Polamalu and linebacker James Harrison. Harrison is a two-time Pro Bowler who recorded 16 sacks this season en route to becoming the AP Defensive Player of the Year. He became the first undrafted player to win the award.

The Steelers also have the experience advantage, having just won Super Bowl XL in 2006. Additionally, an old football adage says, "Defense wins championships." On paper, the Steelers seem like heavy favorites against Arizona's once-abysmal franchise. However, the Cardinals have been putting up over 30 points per game in the playoffs as heavy underdogs in every round of the playoffs. Every opponent knew that they needed to shut down Fitzgerald, but no one has been able to thus far. The Cardinals have no running game, but even that has failed to shut them down. For once in the Super Bowl era, the Cardinals are having a special season. Their last game will just show how special it truly is.

Posers find stress relief

Sarah Nelson
Staff Writer

Something is distinctly absent as one enters the room... the air is thick with warmth and buoyant with the deep exhales of the individuals that line the floor. Bare feet make light contact with the wood and settle confidently onto a mat-a sheet of material that cuts out a portion of the universe for the individual to own for a time. And then it strikes, amidst the stretching, the heat, and the concentration that thickly permeates the space is the absence of stress.

The Colorado School of Mines (CSM) is renown, among other things, for its intense workload and challenging courses. It is a fast paced community where the minds of students race along intense obstacle courses, jumping hurdles over integrals and pole-vaulting across molecular orbital theory. Often this workout runs perpetually, manifesting itself into a knot of stress that can threaten to be overwhelming. Thanks to a partnership between the Vital Yoga Studio and CSM, students have been provided with the opportunity to investigate yoga's method for resolving this knot on a college-sized budget.

Yoke is the sanskrit word meaning union, and its derivation, yoga, is a prac-

tice focusing on the union of mind, body, and spirit. This union is accomplished through the controlled integration of the body's many systems. Specifically, a flow of asanas, or postures, are coupled with a parallel routine of regulated breath. Together, this partnership allows the body to move purposefully and harmoniously.

The postures vary in difficulty level, easily morphing into a goal attainable for each unique student, no matter the skill level. The range of students engulfs a plethora of different lifestyles ranging from athletes to businessmen, all of who are guided through these postures to align the vertebrae, increase flexibility, balance, strength, and to gain relaxation and an ease of mind.

Breath, while a necessity to life, is often regarded complacently as automatic and taken for granted. In yoga, however, the breath is highly revered as the only major life process that is under the control

of both the autonomic and central nervous system. This ability to direct breath is taken advantage of in the practice of yoga and its ultimate goal of total integration. Breath is the main source of nourishment to the cells of the body and through the practice of specific breathing techniques, oxygenation of the cells is increased. This results in strengthening and revitalizing both the voluntary and autonomic nervous systems as well as adding to an overall sense of wellbeing.

The immense rewards that can be reaped by the study of yoga are as wide and varied as the individuals that practice it. Yoga begins with an acceptance of personal limitations and with this self-acceptance as a springboard these limitations are gradually transcended. Whether seeking to find wholeness and peace, or a concentrated exercise that increases strength, flexibility, and balance, yoga is worthy of investigation.



SARAH MCMURRAY / OREDIGGER

CSM women's ultimate frisbee

Jake Rezac
Content Manager

"I have been involved in Ultimate for a year and a half, and I have definitely become addicted to playing," said Mines graduate student Nina Vollmer, referring to her involvement with the Women's Ultimate Frisbee team. Ultimate Frisbee, which can be seen being played on Kafadar Commons almost any time the weather is good, is serious business for the girls of the team. They play the whole year round, competing against other club-sport teams from CU-Boulder, Colorado State, the Air Force Academy, and many other teams. They are also involved in the Colorado Ultimate Association, a co-ed league in which they finished second last fall and first last spring.

The team practices very hard in order to achieve the success they do. According to team captain Sarah Morgan, "We practice three times a week for two hours at a time. In addition, we all condition outside of practice. That might be throwing with each other, running a few miles every day, or lifting at the gym." Though this sounds exhaustive, Vollmer, who is team president, added, "Practices are really fun, so they fly by pretty quickly... We love playing and any time we spend throwing a disc is more fun than it is work."

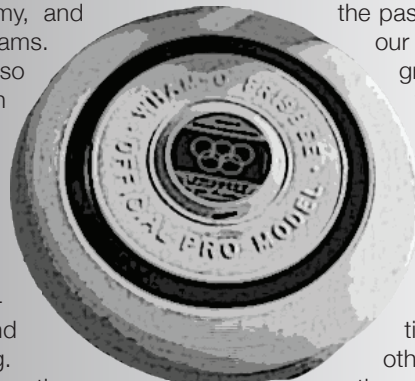
Vollmer, Morgan, and their teammates will be traveling to Las Vegas from February 6 to the 8 for the Trouble in Vegas Ultimate Frisbee tournament, which is the largest college Ultimate Frisbee tournament in the United States. While there, they hope

that their hard work will pay off and they'll be able to compete against teams of many different skill levels and playing styles. The team has been playing in the tournament for three years, and according to Vollmer, it's "one of the most fun."

Though the team has been playing well the last few years, many of the members are close to graduating. Because of this, they have been recruiting more heavily this year than in years past. According to Vollmer, this has paid off. "We have 3 dedicated freshmen that have really worked hard and improved their skills." Morgan added, "In the past, a big part of our team has been grad students who played ultimate [at a different university]."

Outside of playing in tournaments, the team participates in other fun activities. According to Vollmer, "We get to scrimmage other women's teams, and have co-ed scrimmages and bar-b-ques with the men's team. Plus, we organize a co-ed E-days Ultimate Frisbee tournament that is super successful."

The team is trying very hard to get others to join in on the fun. "We are always looking for new players, regardless of age or skill level and we have awesome coaches that can teach anyone how to be a great Ultimate player," according to Vollmer. They practice on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 PM and on Sundays from 12 to 2 PM on the North IM Fields. Anyone who wishes to join the team or purchase a custom Frisbee should contact Nina Vollmer at nina.vollmer@gmail.com.



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Race division persists despite Obama inauguration

Michael Holzmeister
Staff Writer

The only word that anyone seems able to use when discussing Barack Obama's election victory is "historic." It is as if his inauguration were more historic than George Bush's or Bill Clinton's. The reason people believe that Obama's election is historic is that he is black.

It would appear that Americans are celebrating the end of racism. We can point to our new president and prove to the world that our race problem has vanished. Of course, nothing has really changed in American race relations in the short span of time since Obama won the election.

The division between black and white in the United States seems to be an intractable problem. Other groups of people have settled in this country and become a part of the culture. Immigrants from all over the world – Asia, Europe, South America and Africa – come to the United States and take part in the American dream. They get decent jobs, put kids through college, and join the rest of the culture. Take the Obama family, for instance.

Barack Obama is the son of an immigrant. His father came from Kenya – voluntarily, mind you – and married a white woman from Kansas. Barack went to college, studied law at Harvard, served in the U.S. Senate, and became President. No immigrant's American dream has ever dreamier than that.

A criticism Barack Obama has faced is that he is not black enough. The criticism is justified. The defining characteristic of the black community in the United States is slave ancestry. It is slavery more than skin color that di-

vides black from white.

Anyone who doubts slavery's lasting injuries should read a piece called "Lonely in America: Contemplating the remains of slavery" by Wendy S. Walters in the March 2008 edition of Harper's Magazine. Walters is descended from slaves.

"I resist thinking about slavery," she writes, "because I want to avoid the overwhelming feeling that comes from trying to conceive of the terror, the violence, and the indignity of it."

The event that got Walters to contemplate her ancestors was the uncovering of a grave in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where archeologists had found remains of people that DNA tests had proven to be of African ancestry. We tend to believe that slavery was a Southern thing, but Walters discovers that New Englanders owned slaves, too.

She attended a lecture in Rhode Island and learned more about slavery in the North. The speaker explained that in New England, slaves were euphemistically called servants, and that there is a perception that Africans were treated better than they were in the South.

Walters, quoting the speaker, "This misperception is because people don't want to remember the dehumanization. Slavery is violent, grotesque, vulgar and we are all implicated in how it denigrates humanity."

Walters acquired a copy of the archeologists' report of their dig at the gravesite in Portsmouth. The scientists had to dig around sewer

lines and gas pipes and carve their way under the sidewalk. The bodies of the people buried there had been paved over and bored through. The descriptions of the remains make the history concrete. The report becomes the manifestation of slavery's effect on Walters. She carried the report in her backpack lest she lose it. "At some point," she writes, "I grew accustomed to its weight and stopped noticing that I was always carrying it around."

Like Walters, all Americans – Northerners and Southerners – have grown accustomed to the burden slavery has put on us, and it is slavery rather than racism that causes the hostility and distrust between black people and white people. The terror, violence, and indignity of slavery continue to haunt us, poisoning the two groups' relations with one another.

We have believed that race determines the way we treat one another. The more plausible explanation for our behavior is history. White people are ashamed and black people resentful. Neither group can accept the other, and we remain separate. Americans are acting as if Obama's election victory has absolved us of racism. Since our president is black, we can't be racist, right? But what we think of as our racial problem still exists.

Barack Obama has the trust of both black and white people. He has lived in both worlds, and

We have believed that race determines the way we treat one another. The more plausible explanation for our behavior is history.

his knowledge of both groups may be broader than that possessed by anyone else. He may be able to narrow

the gap between black and white and make it possible for us to celebrate a truly historic moment when an African American descended from slaves takes the oath of office and becomes president.



Minds at Mines Presidential Inauguration

Roby Brost
Staff Writer

This past Tuesday on January 20, 2008 was a historic day in history. The 44th President of the United States was sworn into office. President Barack Obama was sworn in on a cold morning amidst confetti and a mispronunciation of the oath of office. Ballroom C of the Student Center hosted a live feed of the historic event, so that many students would be able to watch the Inaugural speech. Since the Inauguration, many components of the day's events have been under discussion; the flubbed lines, the clothing, the turnout to the Inaugural speech, and of course the Inaugural speech itself. Despite the hype and excessive press coverage, one question remains, would classes and students take the opportunity to watch the Inauguration had the President-Elect not been Barack Obama? Many students here at Mines were in class at the time of the Inauguration. Some found the speech later online, some became frustrated with the lag in screen for the live feed, and still other students found the Inaugural speech less than important; preferring to wait and see what President Obama will do now that he is in office, and not just what he says he will do. This is what some the Minds at Mines thought.



"It was cool. Overall, it was a very good speech. I think that he will make good on his promises. He made quite a few [promises] but he also had a rational [idea] for how to back those plans up with action. He's not just promising things. It looks like they might happen."

Amanda Noranzky

"I skipped class to watch history. I thought that the Inaugural speech was hopeful. It seemed to press on to the future, and remind us that we need patience and perseverance."

Jacob Ball



"My modern physics class was going to be cancelled on account of people complaining about wanting to see the Inauguration. However, they were going to reschedule the class time to a time where I had a scheduling conflict, so I and many other students went to the Professor because we felt it unfair to miss a scheduled lecture when students could record or watch the Inauguration later. Because many people felt the same way, our lecture wasn't moved."

Tom Gamarano

"I think that tradition-wise, the Inauguration was ok. But in reality, it doesn't really matter what any of the Presidents have said in their speeches, or even at their Inaugurations. It's more about what they will do, what they will accomplish. I don't care what President Obama said, I care about what he really values and how he plans to run the country. The rest of it is really just a spectacle."

Mataya Flaherty



"Based on his Inaugural speech, I think that President Obama has a lot to live up [to]. He's a very good speaker, but whether he can take what he said he's going to do and actually do it is going to be another matter entirely. I mean, I hope he does, but he wants to cut the taxes, reduce the budget and spend more? I think that he's really trying to do a lot during the first term."

Jim Ansley

ALL PHOTOS ROBY BROST / OREDIGGER

Inaugural Reflections

K. James Duffy
Guest Columnist

On November 5, I woke a bit of a bitter American. Utterly despondent, emotionally drained, and searching for meaning, I did not know what lay ahead. The remnants of my political foray; yards signs and rallies, classroom debates and donations, caucusing for one and voting for another, all seemed frivolous at best.

January 20, I rose and watched with skeptical anticipation. Two world leaders, arms outstretched in understanding, marched down steps towards the future. The burdens of one, lifted on to the shoulders of another while the world watched.

Opposite ideologies, opposing world views, but yet so much shared. The helicopter no longer designated Marine 1, sailing into history, set off an incredulous truth that my young eyes finally

bore witness.

But had anything changed? I cast my vote with conviction then; I stand by my beliefs now. Conservatism remains alive and well within me. Big government is no panacea for the individual bereft of personal responsibility and self sacrifice.

We are reminded to take heed of our differences with civility and conviction in our common purpose. The time is not for liberal post-mortem analysis of the Bush administration; nor is it the time for petty conservative attack. Let us come together but for one moment, and appreciate all that we have and can accomplish together.

We came to the inauguration with separate ideas, but we leave renewed with a common hope. A hope not etched in liberal or conservative agendas, but a hope for the possible. As individuals, nothing can stop our potential. And when this comes together as a nation, nothing can stop the unrelenting promise of America.

Perhaps, then, something has changed. Maybe being an American is much more than simply going to our jobs, loving our families and counting our blessings. Maybe it also includes a fundamental commitment to the community, a stake in the outcome of our neighbors, a realization that we are responsible for tomorrow. Now, what can be partisan about that?



LILY GIDDINGS / OREDIGGER

The inaugural address:

A Republican's view

Alec Westerman
Staff Writer

Barack Obama's inaugural address was certainly a well-delivered speech. However, some of the ideas promoted therein, be they uncontroversial or vaguely stated, were disconcerting. They alluded to some ideals that are inconsistent with America's best interest, primarily Obama's thoughts on the economy. There is truth in Obama's assertion that, despite the economic downturn, "We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on Earth. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains undiminished." Where Obama missed the mark, however, is on how to gain full use of our potential.

Obama stated that "The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works, whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified." The problem with this assertion lies in the latter part. The idea that "jobs," "decent wages," "care," and "retirement" as measures of whether a government

works are good, but they must defer to higher standards, such as liberty. Liberty is one of the natural rights which John Locke promotes. It puts our lives in our hands over those of another. It is liberty that inspired the old adage, "That government is best which governs least."

An example of how liberty may be at risk is demonstrated by a statement uttered by Obama. "This crisis has reminded us that, without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control." With this statement there is no real fault – a "watchful eye" is never a bad thing. However, knowing Obama's platform, it is clear that "watchful eye" implies more than just a spectator role. A watchful eye will come with a guiding hand. Greater regulation, when done too extensively, can stifle private initiative by making business too burdensome to conduct. Greater regulations, when applied, can't reasonably be expected to improve nationwide business performance. Businesses will try to maximize profits left alone or not. Greater regulation, when, applied to business, is a regulation applied to a business owner. Too many regulations infringe on the liberty of business owners. Regulations aren't the solution to the economy and they aren't a step towards justice, they

are just more rules.

Adjoining the last quote was the following, "The nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous." By saying "favors only," Obama may seem to imply that a standard of equity in governmental favoritism is the ideal. However, notice that he expressly says nothing against favoring the poor. There are many ways to define favoring, but with the government as the agent of action and numerous programs intended to give citizens a hand up, the "prosperous" are not favored. The poor need help, no doubt - help better directed than what they are presently receiving. However, how much "favor" is too much?

Near the close of his speech, Obama quoted the words of Washington during the least promising period of the revolution, "Let it be told to the future world that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet it." Obama paralleled their struggles with our struggles and indeed, now, as then, we face uncertainty. Now, just as then, we still have "hope," "virtue," and a "common danger" over the next four years, and with sense or senselessness, we will "meet it."

A step in the left direction

Zachary Boerner
Copy Editor

President Barack Obama. It's been a long, hard road for him, but through perseverance and superior policies, he won the election.

Now it's time for the real work to begin.

America has a problem. The national debt exceeds ten trillion dollars, unemployment is up, and inflation is going to rapidly start increasing.

These problems have been inherited by Obama from his predecessors, and within the next four or eight years, he has to mitigate the damage from them or fix the problems entirely.

This understandably won't happen, seeing as the economic machine is slow moving and very rarely does a single thing make it shift in one direction or another. The current economic downturn is the result of a number of problems coming home to roost, but hopefully we can get ourselves back on track in the next four to eight years.

Obama has been working for more than just the past few days in preperation for his ascension to presidency. While it appeared that his inauguration was the start of Obama's plans, he was working long before his hurried inaugural oath.

In addition to the economic woes that he faces, Obama faces a possibly hostile international environment. Under Obama's predecessor, the United States has alienated most of its allies and ticked off more than a few other countries, so much so that in the last few months of Bush's presidency, many countries were

reluctant to deal with the United States until a new administration took office.

Obama reached out to foreign nations in is inaugural address, beseeching them to help the United States build a better future for the world and called for countries to stop fighting so that all nations could prosper together.

While Obama's message is optimistic, it would be foolish to think that all of our problems will be solved. However, it is a nice thought that we finally have an administration that will be willing to talk to other countries and not just shove them to the side because they don't readily agree with American interests.

Obama's inaugural address wasn't all work, however. A moving piece arranged by John Williams was played before the various speeches and set the tone for the inauguration.

Obama preached a message of hope before he took office, and while many believe it is a false hope, Obama has already started to hold himself to that message.

In the last few days, Obama has already done a few major things for which many people were waiting. First, Obama has signed an executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center, the notorious prison in which "enemies of the state" were kept without due process of law.

Secondly, Obama has repealed the executive order that baned federal funding for clinics that offered information on abortions or offered abortions. This step is one for an individual's rights and it is heartwarming to

see that people are once again being given a choice.

And finally, Obama has vowed to pull American troops out of Iraq within the next 16 months while stepping up operations in Afghanistan, which had fallen by the wayside since the Iraqi war.

All in all, it is nice to see a change come to this country that has long been overdue. While some people may not be optimistic about his term, it will certainly be better than his predecessor's and will likely fix many things that people have been complaining about for the past few years.

Principally Irked

Dissent is always patriotic, but...

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Staff Writer

It appears to me that the Republicans have had a majority position in government for so long that they don't remember how to play the minority. Less than a week after Democrat Barack Obama became President of the United States, legislators like John Boehner are failing to provide an intelligent voice to the Republican opposition. Call me crazy, but I expect two competing visions, both viable. I see only one.

Boehner is the House Minority Leader, and in the face of sweeping new changes and a looming vote on a new bailout bill, he has done nothing more than flop like a fish. When the Obama Administration challenged the opposition to come up with competing ideas, he and his colleagues dragged out the weary tax cut pony, hoping to ride it to a victory in public opinion.

Giving money back to the taxpayer is always good politics, and it sounds like it would work, but the fact is that in tough economic times, people pay back debts or save, not spend. If Boehner and the Republicans were smart, they would be innovative. Then again, it's been quite a while since the GOP has been called that. Does 1994 ring a bell? A "Contract with America" won the House for Republicans for the first time in decades.

Now, the GOP is a minority party again, and it is quite concerned both about Obama's popularity and the fact that they've lost dozens of seats in Congress in each of the past two national elections. Among the proposed courses of action are the "oppose everything" and "voice of reason" methods. So far, the Republicans appear to be taking neither.

Dissent is the key to democracy. The United States needs intelligent dissenters. If there's anything I've learned from the past eight years, it's that the people who agree with those in power cannot be trusted to voice their disagreements. Initially, it seems like the main opposition, Republican congressmen and Senators, don't have a very

effective strategy.

I hate to say it, but that sets us up for another eight years of unaccountability. The politicians in Washington are more than just officeholders. They are charged by their constituents to keep the government responsible for its actions. Our country cannot afford what happens when Congress acts as a rubber stamp or a road-block.

There is an unfortunate pattern in this country consisting of trust in the media and certain watchdogs and whistleblowers to do the job of holding government accountable. Why depend on them? Is it not an easy job, one of a responsible citizen, to voice your opinion? Do we still care about what actually affects our lives, or are we only invested in the latest television program?

Is it not right to have arguments in our government? How do the political parties approach debate without turning people off? Considering the popularity of President Obama, I think the best bet for Republicans right now is to try to do him one better and fashion a new conservative voice for the 21st century. A healthy Republican Party is in the best interests of America, just as a healthy Democratic Party is.

The party of Obama has already redefined itself. In stark contrast with the Republicans, Democrats have forged a new strategy that has them more popular and more powerful than they have been in decades. President Obama and others are veritable idea factories and the best way for the GOP to forge successful arguments against the Democrats is to have better and stronger policy ideas.

Maybe I'm just talking nonsense. Maybe this has nothing to do with political parties and everything to do with the average citizen. There will always be people who advocate the status quo, but it is imperative to challenge ideas and ask questions. But challenging the Democrats is not the only thing necessary. It also must be done intelligently. And therein is my dissent. I'm talking to you, John Boehner.

Cultural Diversities

The value of the left hand in Tanzania

Georges Ngonyani
Staff Writer

Welcome back to this series of the articles on Cultural diversities. Today, I have remembered the poem I made about ten years ago titled "What was your sin - left hand?" I posed this question to Tanzanians after looking at the way the left hand was treated. I have remembered this question following what I have observed in Golden, Denver, New York City, and Washington, DC. I have learned that my poem had no room in these places and probably the whole United States.

Since my question didn't receive satisfactory answers and the practice is still the same, let me share with you the way the left hand is treated in Tanzania's cultural perspective.

Parents begin by teaching their children to receive or give

things using both hands clasped together. Then, as children grow up, they come to realize that they can either give or receive with both hands clasped or by the right hand (this is how elders do). That is, being an adult, you can choose to give with both hands clasped or the right hand.

However, if the circumstance limits you from using the right hand (like when you have many things in your hands), making it necessary to use the left hand, then you *must* say, "Excuse me, I use/have used my left hand." You should satisfy yourself that your interlocutor really understands how difficult it was for you to use the right hand.

Another situation is when eating. The right hand is supposed to be used. It is believed that if you use the left hand, you won't get satisfied with the food. Also, you disrespect both the cook and the food.

In schools and in meetings, those who want to speak have to raise their right hands. The left hand would mean disrespecting the professor or the meeting facilitator. Those who are left handed would first be discouraged to use the left hand when learning to write, but if all efforts fail, then they can be excused to use them, but only for writing (I am not sure on what happened to Obama when he was learning to write).

In short, the cultural values in Tanzania regard the use of the left hand in social interaction as lack of respect. However, even though this practice has existed for generations, the sin that punished the left hand to this extent isn't known. If you ask "Why not the left hand," some people will say it is a restroom-hand, but many answers will center on lack of respect and bad manners.

Fool's Gold

“CHANGE! Woo! Change!”



Obama brings change

America rejoices/riots

David Underwood
Chief Spin Analyst

Just a few days ago, newly elected President Barack Obama came rushing into the White House amid the overwhelming hopes and dreams of a slight majority of the American people. Obama promised people from every walk of life that change was coming, and he was going to be the one to bring it. Early Saturday morning, he proved his word valid, but it wasn't by any reform, new law or even a change in staff, no; it was something much different.

White House staff arrived Saturday morning to find the entire White House filled with nothing but pennies, nickels, and dimes; change, if you will. President Obama was found buried in a pile of shiny new pennies in the corner of the Oval Office, frantically polishing away at the heaps of copper coated coins. Clearly sleep deprived and distraught, Obama could be heard mumbling “I did it! I kept my promise! People love me!” According to White House officials, the President could not be reached for further comment, stating “Hey look! Bush made a stupid face!”

Witnesses state that the president began to act strangely after a meeting with his advisors. Apparently, when asking this group for more

ideas on how he could bring more change to the country, one man jokingly commented on all of President Obama's leftover campaign money and the massive amount of coinage it could bring. Much to the group's surprise, the president loved the idea. Unable to be dissuaded by his peers, Obama sent an executive order that all coin in the Washington DC area was to be brought to the White House.

Due to shortages of coin in the area, banks and businesses actually began setting a higher value for change, setting the price of a

penny to a dollar, a nickel to five, and a dime to a hefty ten dollars. Fights broke out across the city for coins in the street. Ten local gas stations were robbed exclusively for their tip jars.

DC, already in a precarious situation, soon plunged into chaos. Riot police were called in and soon followed by the National Guard. Martial law was declared and a curfew was set in place. The day seemed almost lost until, to everyone's relief, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrived to enforce law and restore order. The day ended with 216 injuries, 27 deaths (nine of which were coin collectors), thirty-two million dollars in property damage, and the occupation of the United States Capital by Canadians.



Mines to offer nap room

Janeen Neri
Sleep Number: 45

In response to the huge email campaign directed at Student Life over the past month, Mines authorities have decided to earmark part of the Associated Students Fee toward the construction of a nap room in Arthur Lakes Library. The student response to this decision has been enthusiastic, to say the least. “I’ve been waiting for this for, I don’t know how long,” said sophomore Trevor Meeks, “I was in Mines Park my freshman year, and now I’m about a 20 minute drive away. Having a real place to nap on campus would be heavenly.”

Anika Barnes added, “Wow, I can’t believe this. It’s just so wonderful; I’m in shock. I haven’t been this happy since the Slate Café lost its ‘Worst Food in the Country’ title.”

Not surprisingly, similar sentiments throughout the student body finally prompted Devin Cudney, student body president, to send an email urging his constituents to “let your wishes about sleep accommodations be heard! Let Student Life know how essential supplemental naps

are to your emotional, physical, and intellectual being. We know we have the full weight of science on our side, and all that remains is to show Student Life how they can facilitate this improvement fully.” Despite his stirring words, even Cudney did not expect the overwhelming response his email sparked. “The students of Colorado School of Mines showed once again that they can come out in force when the cause is close enough to their hearts,” Cudney said. When Student Life asked him to speak for the student body he remarked, “this is something that we have been literally dreaming of for years, nay, even decades, perhaps even since this great school was founded over 100 years ago.”

Cudney's speech to Student Life in December finally sealed the deal to input a nap room. Student Activities head Daniel Morris announced this Monday that plans for the Nap Room had been finalized, and that it would be located somewhere in Arthur Lakes Library, though the precise location is still being decided on. Despite this uncertain timeline, students are already ecstatic that Student Life could find a place so central to campus for the room; as junior

Lucas Urman pointed out, “Ha, we’ll have to walk *even less* than those on-campus kids do to their dorms. Excellent!”

Beyond its home building, few other details about the Nap Room have been finalized. “For inspiration, we tried to look for rooms that already get used on-and-off for this purpose, such as Berthoud 241,” Morris explained, “it appears we’re looking for qualities such as heavily padded furniture, a slightly warmer thermostat, and dim, PowerPoint-ready lighting.” Citing safety concerns, Morris also mentioned that, “one thing we have to address is women’s safety. We’re thinking of several levels of cots, with the very top one, five ladders up, to be locked in a manner similar to the residence halls’ third floor. Reprogramming Blaster cards, however, has too many logistical problems.”

The Nap Room is expected to open as early as spring 2010, and will be operated on a walk-in basis. A nap of any length will be free for any Mines student with a bus sticker on their Blastercard. The room will not be open to the public, though this restriction is open to consideration.

Telegram shows poor grammar

First instance of “lolspeak” found

Benjamin M. Weilert
Cheezburger

Buried deep in the archives of the New York City historical society are thousands of old telegrams detailing a variety of topics. Most of those topics are boring and are of no interest to the public at large and as a result, few are ever sorted through. Regardless, in her daily rummaging, the historical society president came across an abnormality.

“It looked like it was written by a two-year old,” she said. The telegraph she was referring to just happens to be the first documented use of the internet language, “lolspeak.” This hybrid of poor grammar and acronyms was originally thought to have been a residual effect of the decrease in average intelligence and the increase of societal impatience.

The date of the telegram in question places it somewhere in the era of the Great Depression, making it precedent to the language by at least 50 years. Upon inspection of the content of the telegram, some distinct features of lolspeak were found.

Lingual expert, Shao Ting, explained; “Besides the needed address, which is entirely in capital letters, as per the standard, the rest of the telegram is written in lower-case. Also, the spelling of most words were incorrect, as well as the use of a cryptic acronym, ‘gtggitbl.’” Many speculations have arisen as to the meaning of the acronym, with the best suggestion being, “Got to go

get in the bread line.”

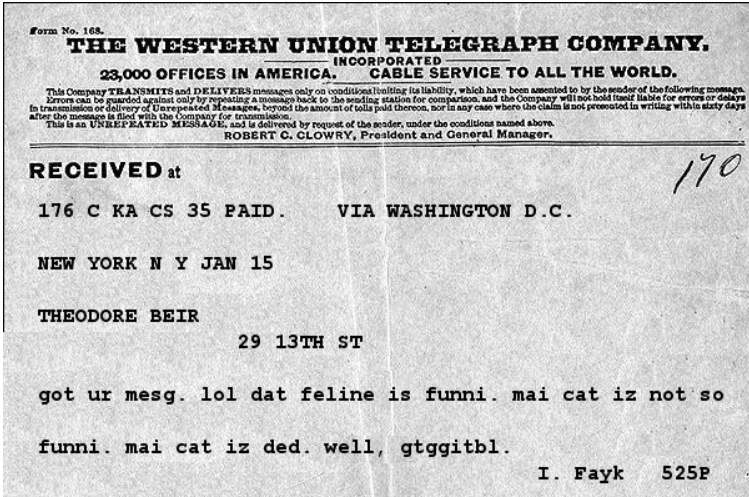
One main difference between this telegram and modern lolspeak is the use of punctuation. Granted, it is used lightly, and mainly to distinguish between sentences, but it is there. “This one aspect is missing from modern lolspeak,” commented Ting, “We’re lucky that we can even get any spacebar use out of it.”

When translated into proper English, the telegram reads as follows, “I got your message. I laughed out loud because that feline [you sent me] was funny. My cat is not funny. My cat is dead. Well, I’ve got to go get in the bread line.” The historical society president had this take on the content, “Obviously, there was some back and forth communication between the recipient and the sender, the former of which previously sent some sort of funny picture

of a cat to the latter.”

Some archeologists are debating the telegram's claim to the first instance of lolspeak after a find in Egypt this last summer brought some question to the language's origin. “Of course, this is only speculation now, as these hieroglyphics don't indicate lower or upper case, but there is obviously a picture of a cat with some sort of pictograph caption. This seems to be the topic of the wall, and most of the pictographs are blurry and disordered, which could just be due to the ravages of time,” said the head of the Cairo museum of Natural History.

Skeptics to the archeologists' claims justify the telegram's rightful position by pointing out that the telegram was sent through a series of tubes and wires, whereas the hieroglyphics never traveled anywhere.



Telegram. The first known instance of lolspeak. BENJAMIN WEILERT / OREDIGGER

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